

## Global Capacity-Building Workshop

# Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources under the Nagoya Protocol



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

# Methodology

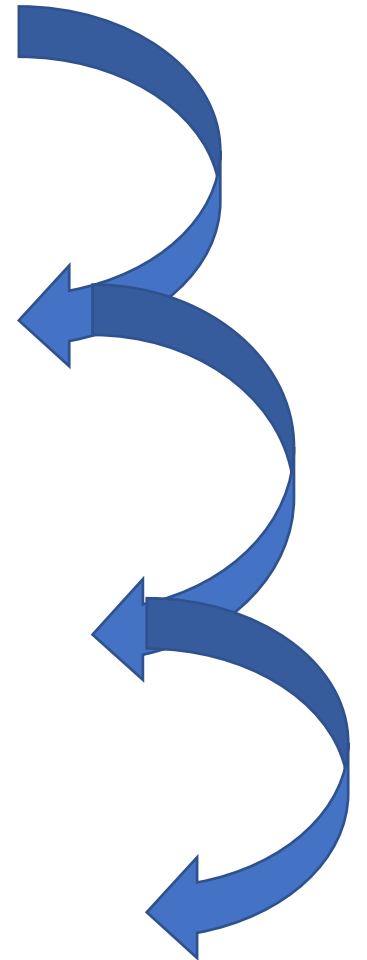
**Pre-workshop homework:** Get you thinking about monitoring utilization and ABS in your country. Identify the challenges and accomplishments and provide some content for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

**First day:** Theory: Overview of the system setup by the Protocol to monitor utilization

**Second day:** Country experience putting the theory into practice (based on the country presentation templates)

**43 / 54 COUNTRIES COMPLETED THE TEMPLATE!!!**

**Third day:** Moving a head together



## Day 1 – Monitoring utilization under the Protocol

| Time          | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.30 – 09.00 | Registration of participants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 09.00 – 09.30 | <b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming remarks</li> <li>• Introduction to the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ methodology</li> <li>○ ice breaker</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 09.30 – 10:15 | <b>Session 1: Overview</b><br>Introduction to the system for monitoring utilization under the Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the scene – Brief overview to the Nagoya Protocol and the system to monitor utilization under the Protocol</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10.15 – 10:35 | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10:35 – 12.15 | <b>Session 1 continued</b><br>Introduction to the system for monitoring utilization under the Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key concepts and obligations: Permit, IRCC, checkpoints, communiques, and the ABSCH</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12.15 – 13.30 | Lunch break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 13.30 – 15.30 | <b>Session 2: Practical example</b><br>ABS process simulation<br>Walk through of a realistic but hypothetical ABS case from start to finish                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 15.30 – 15.50 | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 15.30 – 17.30 | <b>Session 3: Activity</b><br>Monitoring scenarios<br>Group activity to get participants thinking about how the system for monitoring works in a variety of circumstances. (Participants arrange into groups that include member from both User and Provider countries). Activities will consist of a scenario or “problem” being introduced. Groups will have time to discuss and then present their resolution and discussion. |
| 17:45         | <b>Evening reception</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Day 2 – Country Experience

| Time          | Agenda Item                                                                                                       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09.00 – 9.30  | <b>Recap of the previous day and introduction to today’s activities</b>                                           |
| 09.30 – 10.30 | <b>Session 4: Country experiences: Permits and certificates</b>                                                   |
| 10.30 – 10.45 | Coffee break                                                                                                      |
| 10:45 – 12.30 | <b>Country Experiences continued</b>                                                                              |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch break                                                                                                       |
| 13.30 – 15.30 | <b>Session 6: Country Experiences: Monitoring utilization and compliance</b>                                      |
| 15.30 – 15.45 | Coffee break                                                                                                      |
| 15.45 – 17.30 | <b>Country Experiences continued</b>                                                                              |
| 19.00         | <b>Evening reception</b><br>Event hosted by the city of Bonn, at the old town hall, wine and finger-food provided |

## Day 3 – Moving forward together

| Time          | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09.15 – 10.30 | <b>Country Experiences continued</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 10.30 – 10:45 | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10:45 – 12.30 | <b>Session 7: Moving forward together activity</b><br><p>Individual/small group work to reflect on moving forward together on issues related to monitoring utilization.</p> <p>Participants identify the countries with shared challenges or have experienced and dealt with, as well as, their own challenges and questions related to moving forward together.</p> <p>Participants alternate between helping others on issues they have experiences with and seeking advice from experts and others to find solutions to their own challenges and questions. (New issue topics maybe formed as needed).</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABS Clearing-House</li> <li>• Checkpoints</li> <li>• Checkpoints and communiqués</li> <li>• Compliance (Art 15,16)</li> <li>• Permitting and monitoring systems</li> </ul> |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 13.30 – 15.15 | <b>Session 8: Moving forward presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations from country on what they will do to improve their system.</li> <li>• Partner presentations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 15.15 – 15.30 | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 15.30 – 15.45 | <b>Session 9: Wrap up, evaluation and closure of the meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 15.45 – 16.00 | <b>Session 10: Closing remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# Your job during the workshop



# Your job during the workshop

**Prepare yourself for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day by taking note of:**

- Your questions, challenges, concerns
- Countries with common challenges
- Challenges raised that you have solved
- Interesting people to talk to during the breaks
- Interesting country presentations and stories



The more you give,  
the more you get  
(true for workshops  
and clearing-houses)

# Goals of the workshop



## **Participants leave with:**

- A clear understanding of the Protocol's system to monitoring utilization
- Ideas on how to improve your country's ABS system moving forward in your country
- Stronger relationships with your colleagues from around the world
- Greater motivation to publish information and keep it up to date in the ABSCH
- The confidence that you can transfer your new knowledge to your colleagues back home

A wooden mallet with a dark, worn head and a light-colored handle is shown breaking a thin layer of ice in a shallow stream. The mallet is positioned horizontally, with its head just below the ice surface. A large splash of water and ice shards is visible around the point of impact. The stream bed is covered with small, smooth, multi-colored pebbles. The water is clear, revealing the pebbles and the mallet's head. In the bottom left corner, there is a patch of green moss and some dry grass. The overall scene is a close-up, focusing on the action of breaking ice.

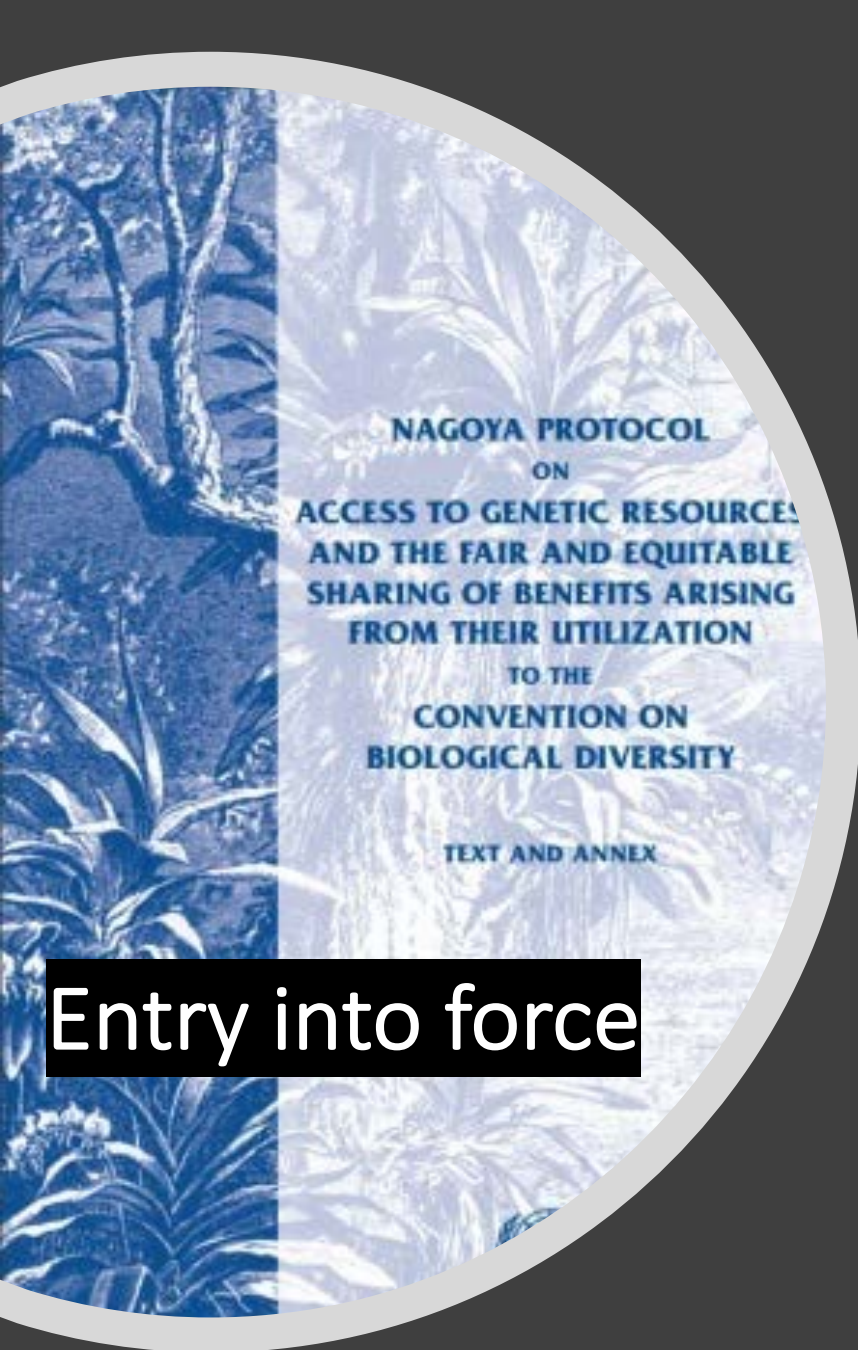
ICE  
BREAKER

# Overview of the system for monitoring utilization under the Protocol

# Overview

---

- Setting the scene
  - Brief overview to the Nagoya Protocol and the system to monitor utilization under the Protocol
- Review of key concepts and obligations:
  - ABS Clearing-House
  - ABS Permit and Certificates
  - Checkpoints and Communiqués

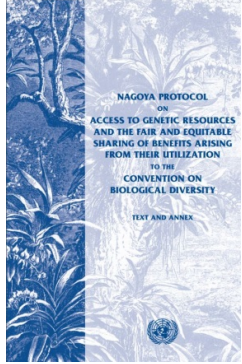


Entry into force



What do these things have in common?

They all happened 5 years ago



Entry into force

OCT  
2014

1

2

3

4

5

1<sup>st</sup>

Certificate  
published

COP13  
MOP2

1<sup>st</sup>

Communiqué  
published

COP14  
MOP3

120 Parties

1000+ certificates

15 communiqués

Global  
monitoring  
workshop

No more  
diapers

Learnt to ride  
a bike

First  
soccer  
practice

1<sup>st</sup> day of  
school

Final  
soccer game of the  
season

First  
steps





# What I learned watching my sons little league soccer (football) team

## It is important:

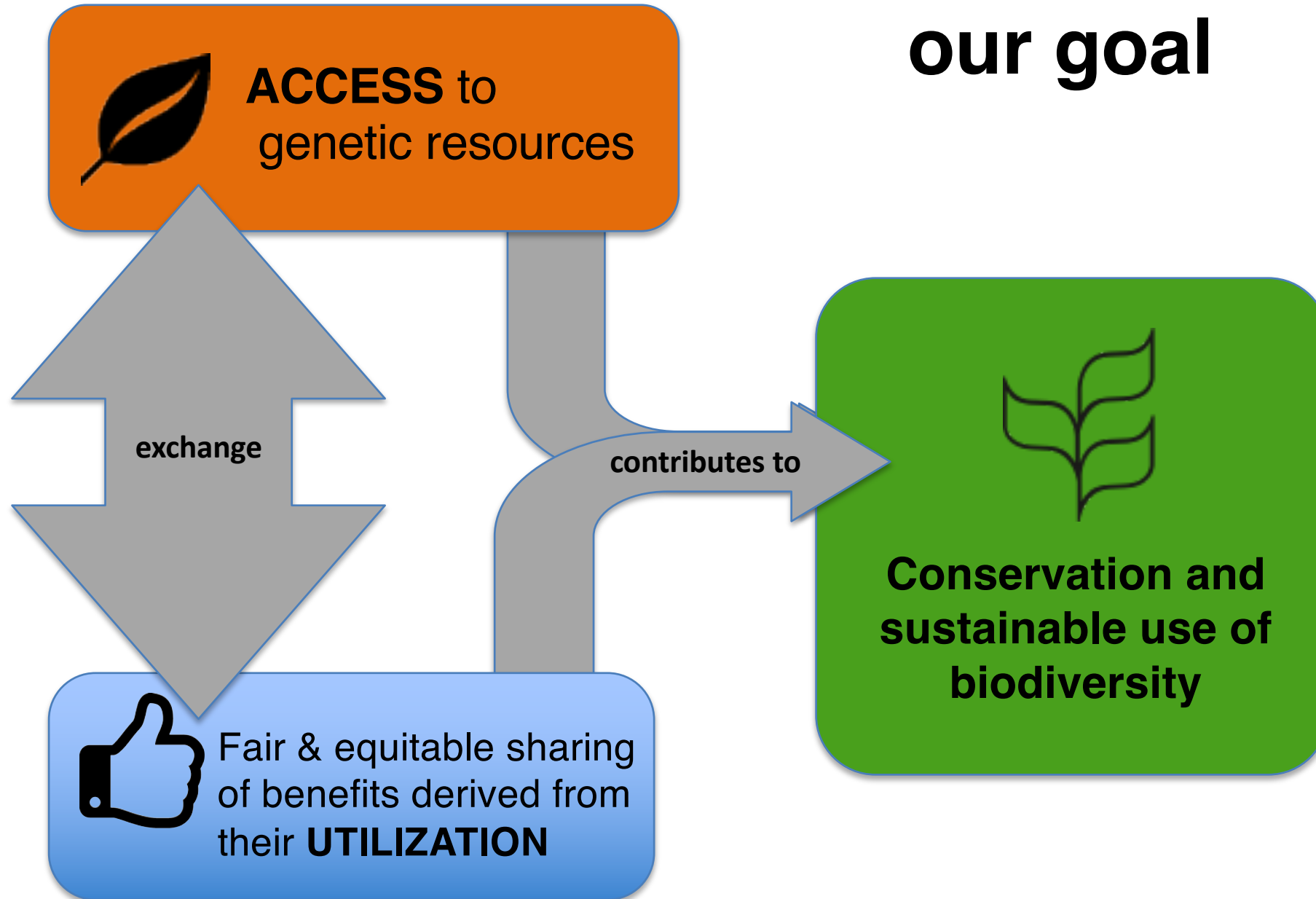
- ✓ To have a common goal
- ✓ It really helps if everybody knows the rules of the game
- ✓ To communicate
- ✓ To support and encourage each other
- ✓ To be able to pass the ball and trust each other
- ✓ To remember that all player are different and diverse
- ✓ That everyone contributes effectively to achieving the goal



**TEAM NAGOYA PROTOCOL!!!**



**Maybe we should start calling ourselves  
Nagoya Protocol Parties Teammates**



**NAGOYA PROTOCOL  
ON  
ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES  
AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE  
SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING  
FROM THEIR UTILIZATION  
TO THE  
CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**TEXT AND ANNEX**



**RULES OF THE  
GAME**

# Communication



## National records ⓘ

| RECORD TYPES                                                            | RECORDS | GOVERNMENTS |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| ABS National Focal Point ⓘ                                              | 173     | 173         |
| Competent National Authority ⓘ                                          | 110     | 67          |
| Legislative, Administrative or Policy Measure ⓘ                         | 242     | 64          |
| ABS Procedure ⓘ                                                         | 6       | 5           |
| National Model Contractual Clause ⓘ                                     | 1       | 1           |
| Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance ⓘ                 | 1107    | 17          |
| National Websites or Databases ⓘ                                        | 47      | 35          |
| Checkpoint ⓘ                                                            | 52      | 25          |
| Checkpoint Communiqué ⓘ                                                 | 15      | 5           |
| Interim National Reports on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol ⓘ | 92      | 92          |



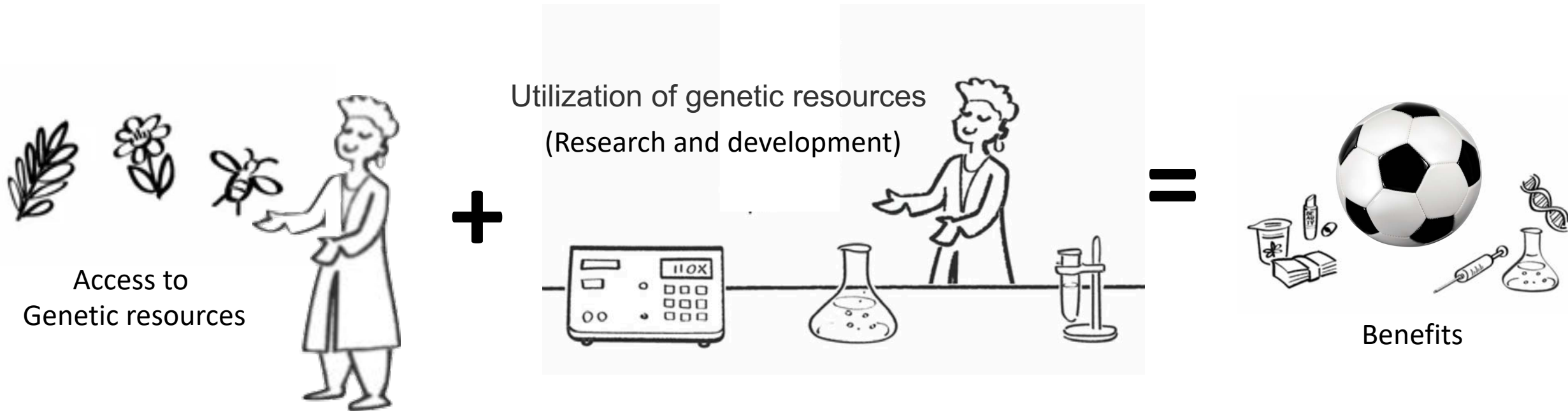
**Move the ball up the field and towards the goal**

**Defensive zone  
(Access)**

**Offensive zone  
(Utilization)**

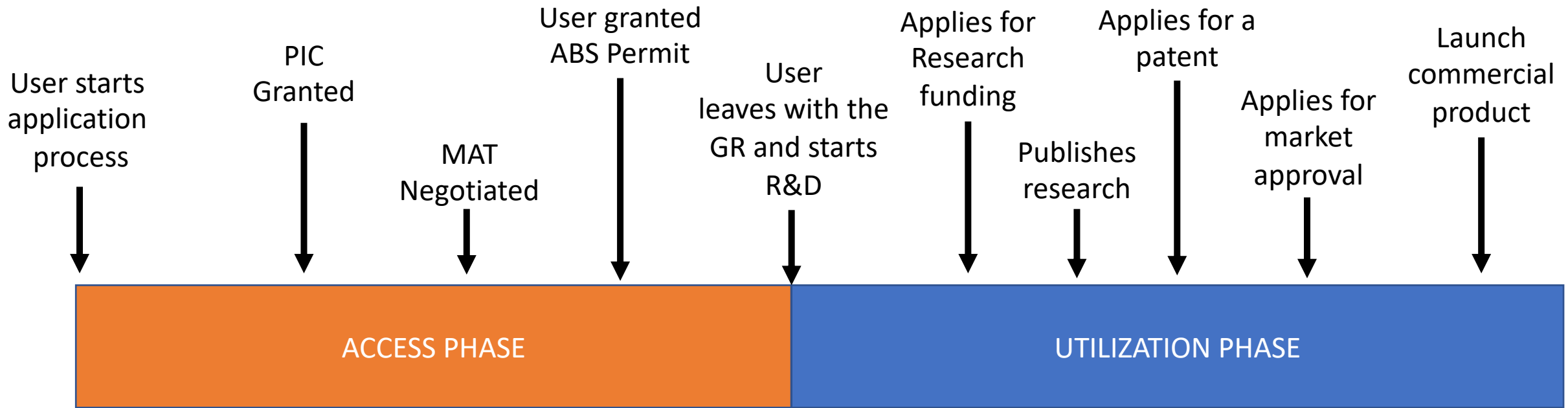


# ABS Premise



(c) “Utilization of genetic resources” means to conduct research and development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of genetic resources, including through the application of biotechnology as defined in Article 2 of the Convention;

Move the ball up the field and score some benefits



Jurisdiction of the country who grants PIC

Responsible for facilitating access

Clear ABS rules and procedures and competent national authorities

Issue permit and publish certificate

Jurisdiction of the country where utilizations happens

Responsible for monitoring utilization

Compliance measures and effective checkpoints along R&D value chain

Publish checkpoint communiqué

# PASSING THE BALL

Provider country



User country



User  
leaves with the  
GR and starts  
R&D



ACCESS PHASE

UTILIZATION PHASE

Jurisdiction of the country who grants PIC

Jurisdiction of the country where utilizations happens

Responsible for facilitating access

Responsible for monitoring utilization

Clear ABS rules and procedures and competent  
national authorities

Compliance measures and designates effective  
checkpoints along value chain

Issue permit and publish certificate

Publish checkpoint communiqué

Nagoya Protocol Players

User countries

Provider  
Countries

✓ **All players are  
different and diverse**

Every Party is a user country  
Some are also provider countries



National implementation is different for every country

# Team skills and effectiveness

## Likely to win

- Don't get scored on
- And score goals

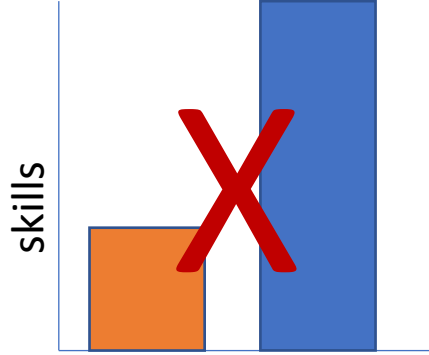


## Likely to lose

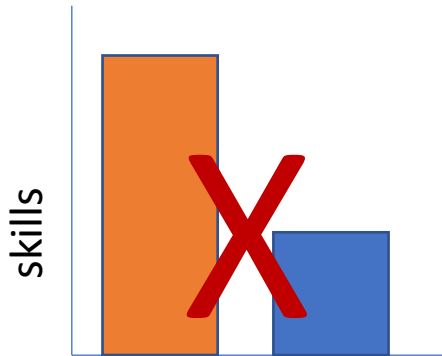
- Get scored on
- And don't score any goals



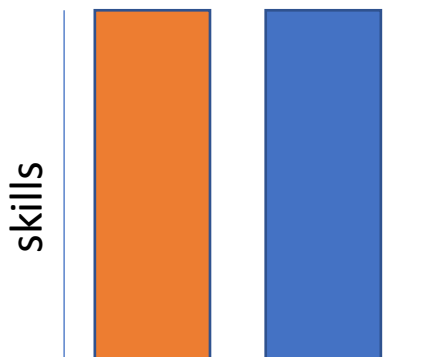
# Team skills and effectiveness



Ineffective access  
Nothing to monitor



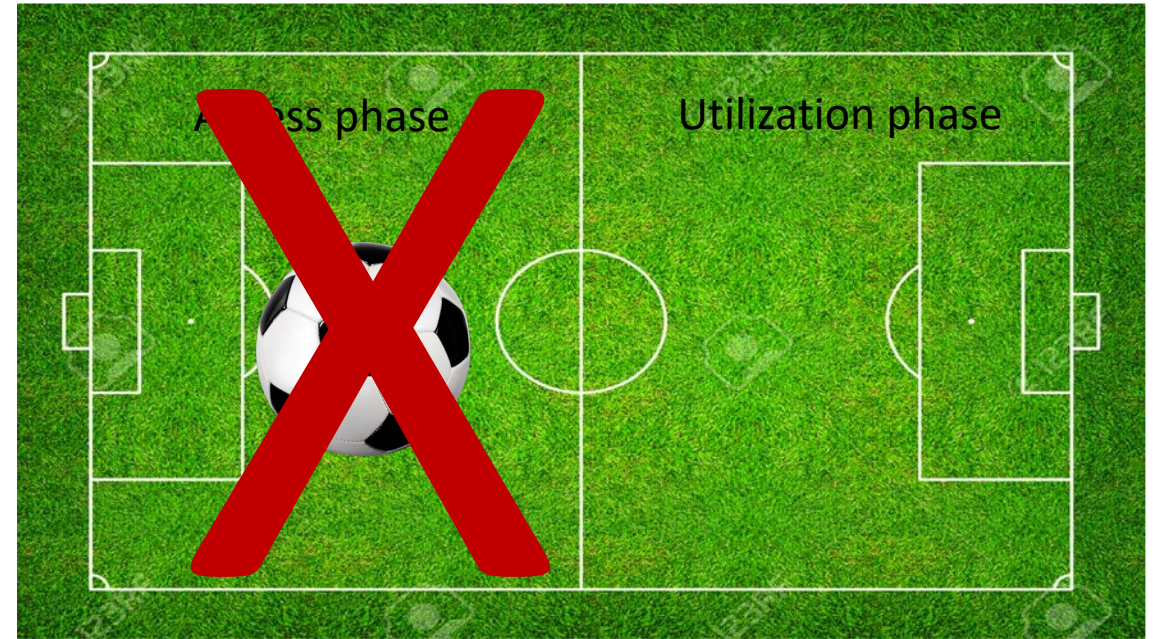
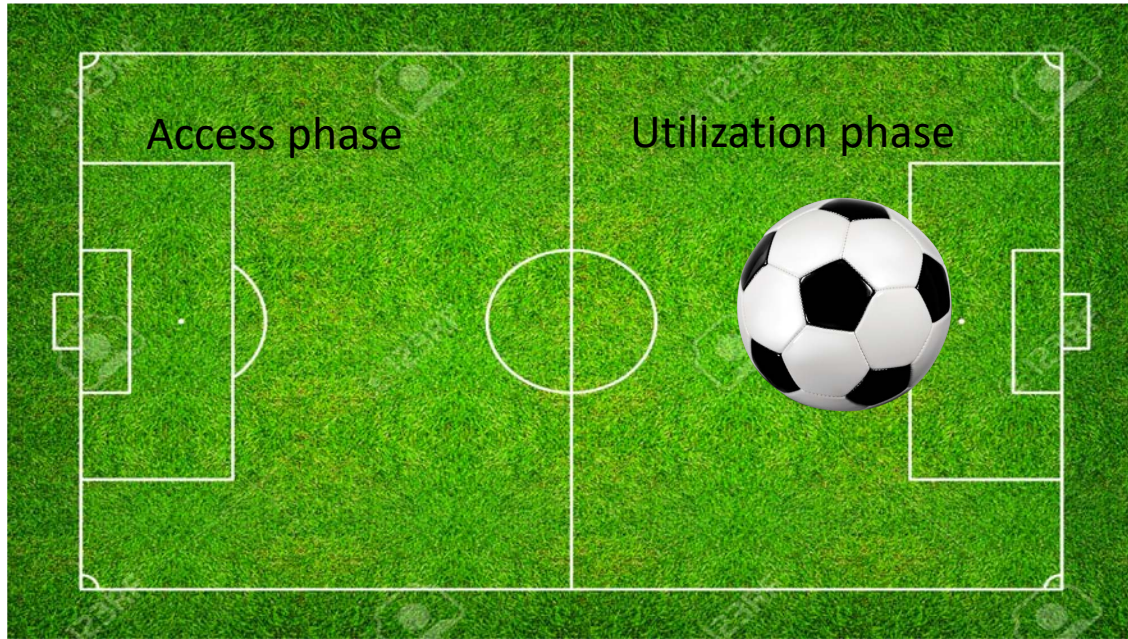
Effective access but  
Poor monitoring utilization



Strong facilitating access  
Strong monitoring utilization

- ✓ **Everyone needs to contribute effectively to achieve our common goal**
- ✓ **Players need to support and encourage each other**

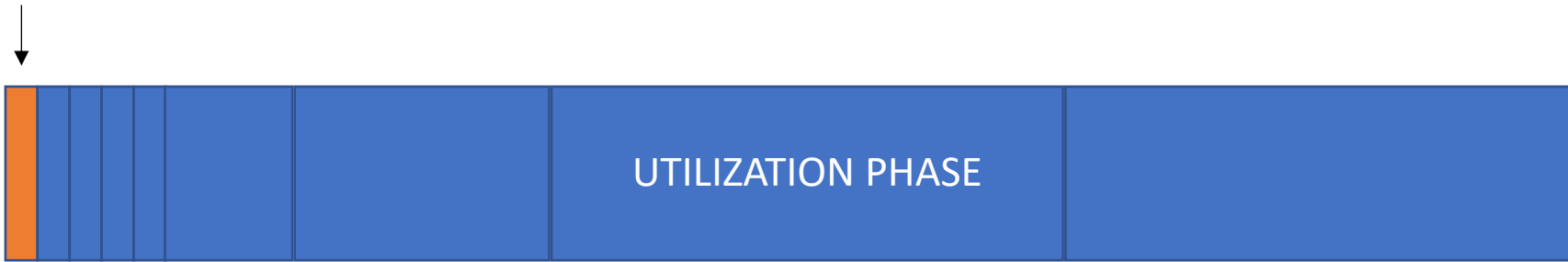
**The more time the ball is in offensive utilization zone  
the more likely we are to score goals**



If the ball never gets out of the defensive zone we  
are never going to score a goal

Most of ABS is spent in the utilization phase

ACCESS PHASE



The application process can take  
3 months

Average time it takes to bring a new  
medicine to market is **12 years**

**TEAM NAGOYA PROTOCOL!!!**



**Nagoya Protocol Parties Teammates**

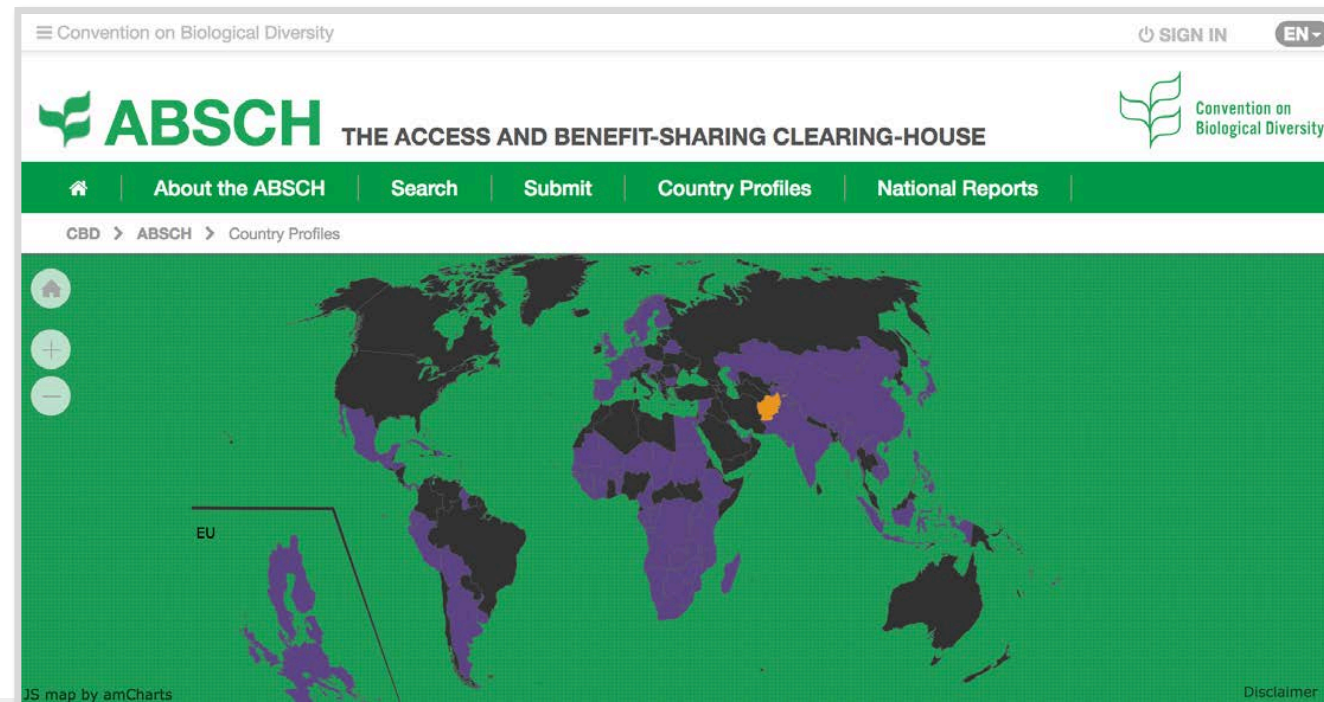
# ABS MONITORING

# ABS Clearing-House (ABSCH)

absch.cbd.int

What is the  
ABS Clearing-House?

# Key communication tool to make ABS happen



## National records ⓘ

| RECORD TYPES                                                            | RECORDS | GOVERNMENTS |
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# Main goal of the ABS Clearing-House

## ACCESS PHASE

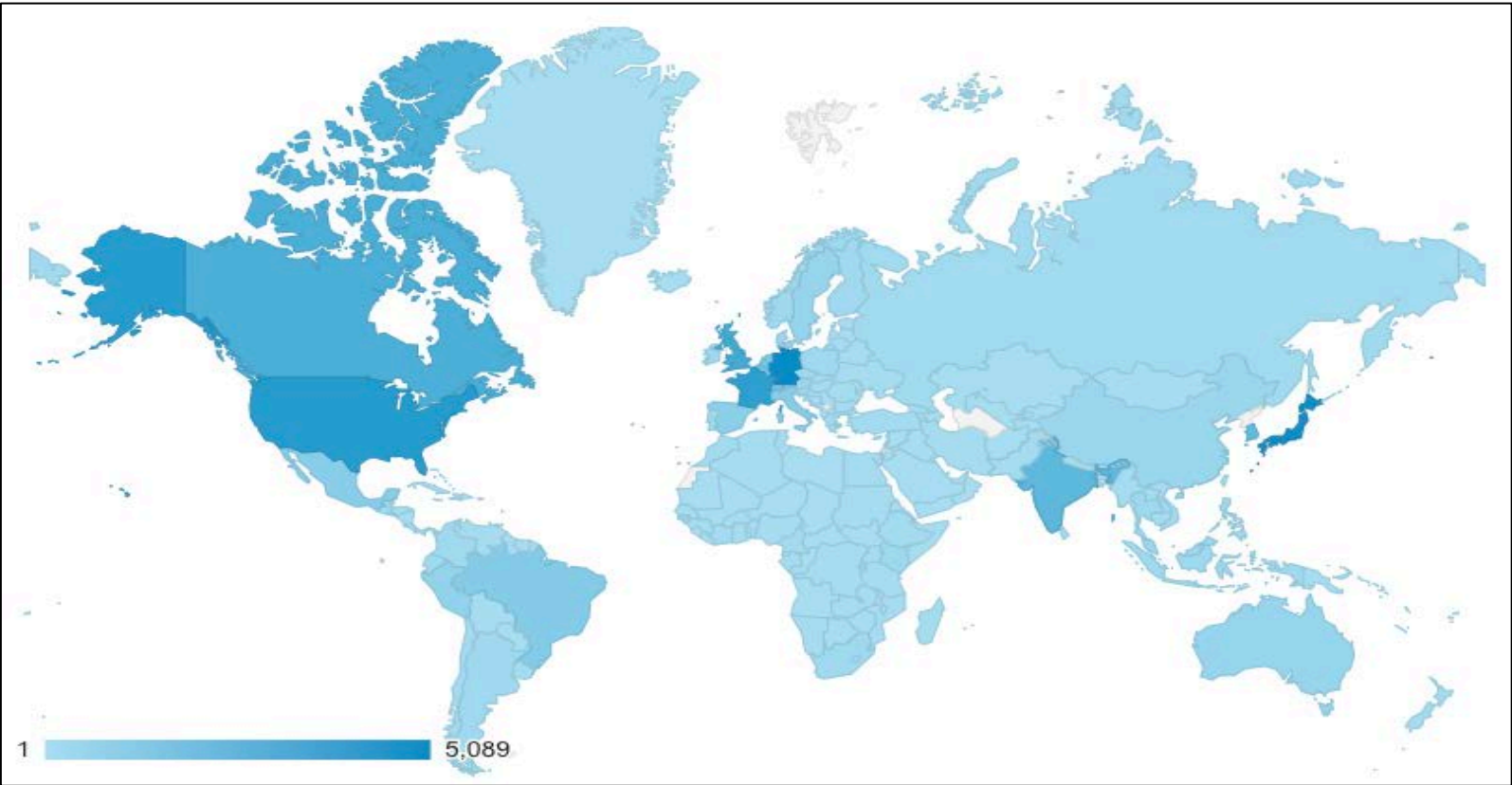
Provide potential **users** with information on how to access genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

## UTILIZATION PHASE

Provide **providers** with information on the utilization of their genetic resources when they leave the provider country's jurisdiction.

Who visits the ABSCH  
the most often?

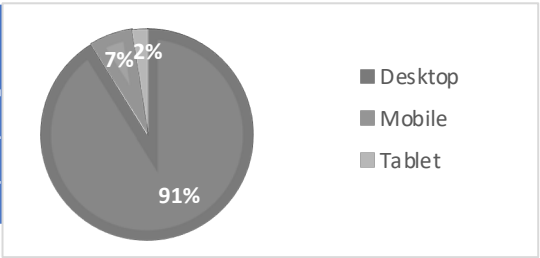
# Google Analytics from the ABSCH website



The top 10 countries, representing 62% of all visitors, are as follows:

Germany, Japan, USA, France, UK, Canada, India, South Korea, Switzerland, and Belgium.

| Device  | Number of Users | Percentage of Total |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Desktop | 20,181          | 91.15%              |
| Mobile  | 1,447           | 6.54%               |
| Tablet  | 513             | 2.32%               |



| Language | % of Visitors |
|----------|---------------|
| English  | 43%           |
| French   | 10%           |
| Japanese | 10%           |
| German   | 10%           |
| Spanish  | 8%            |
| Korean   | 8%            |
| Other    | 11%           |

# Most common questions

**How do I obtain PIC and MAT ?**

**How can I legally access a genetic resources?**

**How long does it take?**

**What are the prerequisites for access to GR?**

**What is the procedure to use associated  
traditional knowledge associated?**



# What records can support communication in the access phase?

## NATIONAL RECORDS

- ABS National Focal Point (NFP)
- Competent National Authorities (CNA)
- ABS Procedures
- Legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS (MSR)
  - Policy/Strategy/Action plan
  - Law Regulatory or administrative measures
  - National or domestic guidelines
  - Explanatory information
  - Community protocol and procedures
  - Customary laws
- National Websites and Databases (NDB)
- Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)
- Checkpoints

## REFERENCE RECORDS

- Virtual Library Resources
- Model Contractual Clauses Codes of Conduct, Guidelines, Best Practices and/or Standards
- Community Protocols and Procedures and Customary Laws
- Capacity-building Initiatives

What is the most common complaint about the ABSCH from users of genetic resources?

Most common complaint:

Information not available

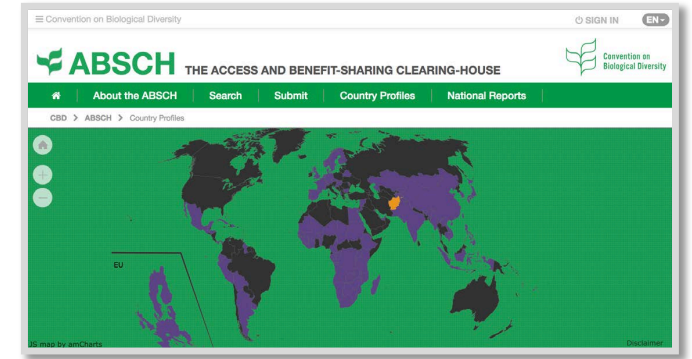
Procedures for access not clear

# Issues regarding the availability and reliability of information

- **Kuwait** - The important question is whether the collected data reflect the actual ABS situation
- **Switzerland** - Countries should make sure that information about e.g. responsible people and regulations they publish is and stays up to date and complete.
- **Germany** - Incomplete, outdated & incomprehensible information , Makes legal access difficult or even impossible for users, Hinders efficient & effective compliance checks
- **Finland** - Researchers (and other potential users of genetic resources and traditional knowledge) would like to be able to directly spot countries regulating access to GR and TK
- **Belgium** - Only few checkpoint communiqués and relatively few IRCCs
- **Belguim** - Complexity of local ABS-regulation(s) in several countries, or lack of information, therefore difficulty in assisting Belgian users in complying with other Parties' measures
- **Côte d'Ivoire** - The main challenges is data availability. Researching for data takes time.
- **Finland** - the potential users find it difficult to use, Researchers (and other potential users of genetic resources and traditional knowledge) would like to be able to directly spot countries regulating access to GR and TK
- **Poland** - ABS CH is not being updated regularly by provider countries and therefore it cannot be used as a reliable source of information neither by users who want to comply with NP nor by CNAs who want to ensure compliance in their country
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis** - Apart from availability of information on areas such as: National Websites and databases, Checkpoints information related to IRCC

What keeps / prevents countries from  
managing their country profiles as  
needed? (Germany)

## Main challenges and concerns with the ABSCH:



1. Lack of availability and reliability of information
2. Lack of capacity to use the ABSCH
3. Functionality and technical issues
4. Translation
5. Frequent changes in responsible authorities

# Capacity to use the ABSCH

- **Kuwait** - Primary concerns are the ability to gather all ABS data in one organization and the consistency of such data
- **Burkina Faso** - Functionality of the ABS Clearing House;
- **Benin** - Faible compétence sur la manière de poster les informations
- **Benin** - Difficultés à comprendre certaines rubriques du CHM à mettre à jour
- **Cambodia** - Limited experience in using of Clearing-house;
- **Bhutan** - Operating ABSCH was challenging being the online system
- **Lao PDR** - There is only a concern from the publishing authorizer to train colleague of using the online portal. This is because only online training is available from the CBD and mainly e-study and try to use the site by practicing. As a PA perspective, lacking of confident in transferring knowledge to colleagues seems to identify as an issue probably.
- **Seychelles** - The Publishing Authority needs to be aware of the changes and should be au fait with using the CHM. Only few people in the country are aware and have capacity to use the CHM

# Functionality and technical issues publishing information

- **Guyana** - It is not possible to publish and IRCC without completing all fields
- **India** - Changes required : User friendly Search options
- **Finland** - the potential users find it difficult to use
- **Jordan** - Creating ABS agreements and reflecting them on the ABS CHM
- **France** - One small difficulty lies in the technical issues we encounter sometimes on the platform (when publishing IRCC for instance)
- **France** - One current challenge is to articulate the national ABS legislation with French overseas ABS legislations (New Caledonia and French Polynesia) and thus to have a fluid process on the ABSCH
- **India** - Changes required : User friendly Search options
- **Jordan** - Creating ABS agreements and reflecting them on the ABS CHM
- **Cote d'Ivoire** - it is sometimes difficult to fill properly steps of data publication. Indeed, on ABSCH we do not answer properly very often the questions because they are specific and need details.

# What records can support communication in the utilization phase?

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  - Explanatory information
  - Community protocol and procedures
  - Customary laws
- National Websites and Databases (NDB)
- Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)
- Checkpoints

## REFERENCE RECORDS

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- Model Contractual Clauses Codes of Conduct, Guidelines, Best Practices and/or Standards
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ANALYSIS OF YOUR INFORMATION

Published on the ABS Clearing-House (22 Sept 2019)

| 54 Countries  | Party         | NFP  | CNA | MSR | PRO | NMCC | IRCC | NDB | CP  | CPC | NR  |
|---------------|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| NOT PUBLISHED | 4 Non-Parties | 0    | 17  | 19  | 50  | 53   | 45   | 33  | 39  | 52  | 11  |
| PUBLISHED     | 50 Parties    | 54   | 37  | 35  | 4   | 1    | 9    | 21  | 15  | 2   | 43  |
| %             | 93%           | 100% | 69% | 65% | 7%  | 2%   | 17%  | 39% | 28% | 4%  | 80% |
| RECORD COUNT  | 50            | 54   | 49  | 154 | 5   | 1    | 879  | 29  | 34  | 11  | 43  |

Non-Parties:

Published  
PRO :

Published  
NMCC :

Published  
IRCC :

Published  
CPC:

NOT  
published  
NR :

Australia  
Brazil  
Costa Rica  
Poland

Cameroon  
Kenya  
India  
Belarus

Benin

Dominican  
Republic  
Uruguay  
Lao People's  
Democratic  
Republic  
Peru  
Belarus  
South Africa  
Kenya  
France (172)  
India (620)

Denmark (4)  
Germany (7)

Australia  
Brazil  
Costa Rica  
Ecuador  
Indonesia  
Jordan  
Namibia  
Nepal  
Saint Kitts  
and Nevis  
Serbia  
Vanuatu

## NO CNA (17)

|                |
|----------------|
| Australia      |
| Indonesia      |
| Jordan         |
| Namibia        |
| Nepal          |
| Vanuatu        |
| Argentina      |
| Kuwait         |
| Mongolia       |
| Pakistan       |
| Rwanda         |
| Samoa          |
| Sierra Leone   |
| Senegal        |
| Burkina Faso   |
| European Union |
| Cameroon       |

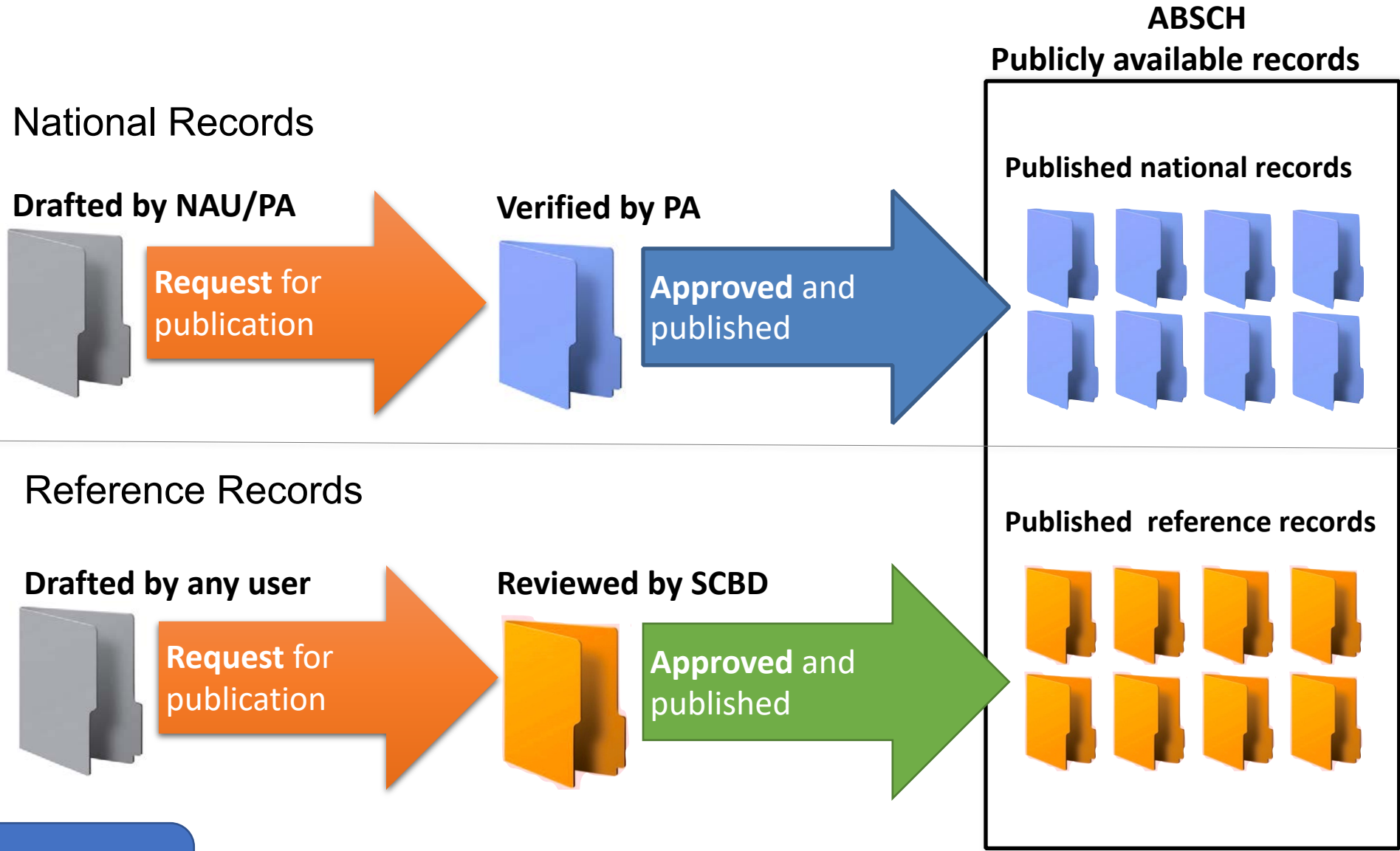
## NO MSR (19)

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| Australia                          |
| Indonesia                          |
| Jordan                             |
| Namibia                            |
| Nepal                              |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis              |
| Vanuatu                            |
| Argentina                          |
| Cambodia                           |
| Guyana                             |
| Kuwait                             |
| Mongolia                           |
| Pakistan                           |
| Rwanda                             |
| Samoa                              |
| Seychelles                         |
| Sierra Leone                       |
| Tajikistan                         |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |

## NO CP (39)

|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Australia      | Saint Kitts and Nevis              |
| Indonesia      | Cambodia                           |
| Jordan         | Guyana                             |
| Namibia        | Seychelles                         |
| Nepal          | Tajikistan                         |
| Vanuatu        | Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |
| Argentina      | Serbia                             |
| Kuwait         | Albania                            |
| Mongolia       | Antigua and Barbuda                |
| Pakistan       | Austria                            |
| Rwanda         | Madagascar                         |
| Samoa          | Uruguay                            |
| Sierra Leone   | Lao People's Democratic Republic   |
| Senegal        | Brazil                             |
| Burkina Faso   | Republic of Moldova                |
| European Union | Benin                              |
| Cameroon       | Costa Rica                         |
|                | Côte d'Ivoire                      |
|                | Honduras                           |
|                | India                              |
|                | Belgium                            |
|                | Ecuador                            |

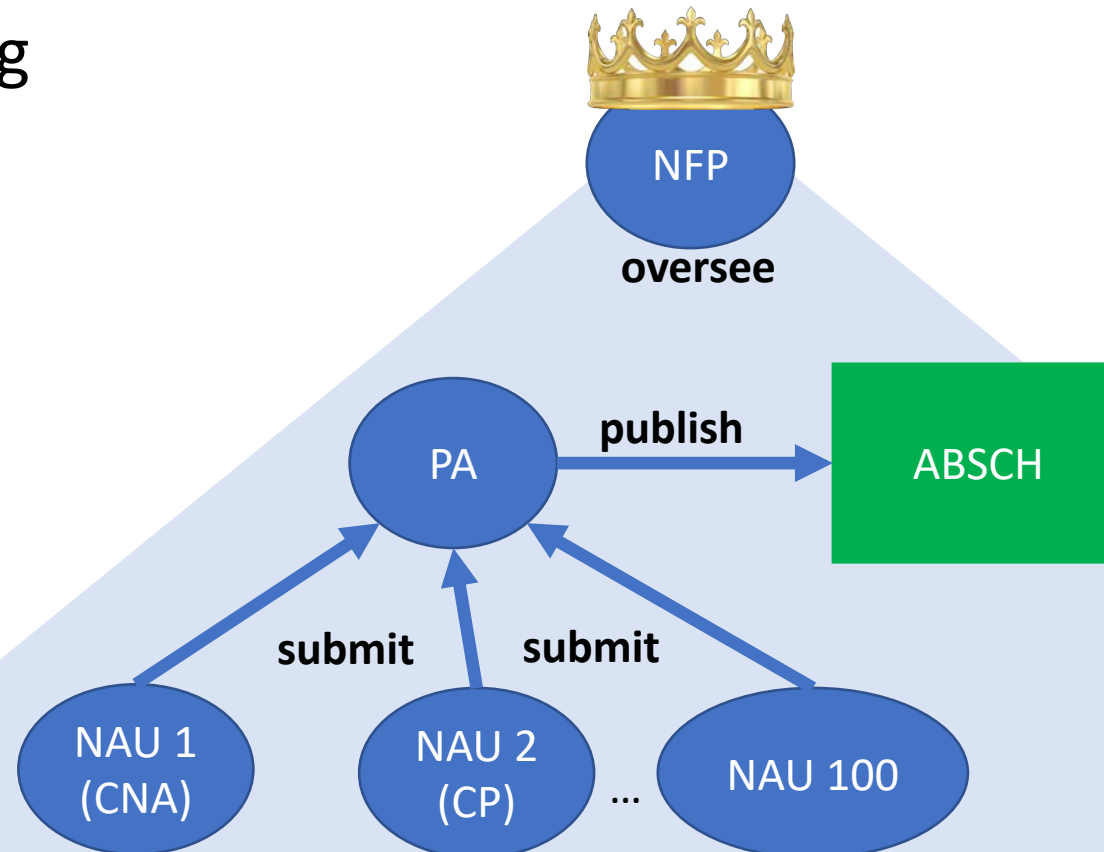
Who has ownership over the  
information that is published  
in the ABSCH?



Who can delete the information?

# National users of the ABS Clearing-House

1. NFP – responsible for making national information available.
2. PA – single person responsible for publishing information on the ABS Clearing-House on behalf of the NFP
3. NAU(s) – allowed to submit draft information to the PA for publishing



Is it possible to nominate more than one PA?

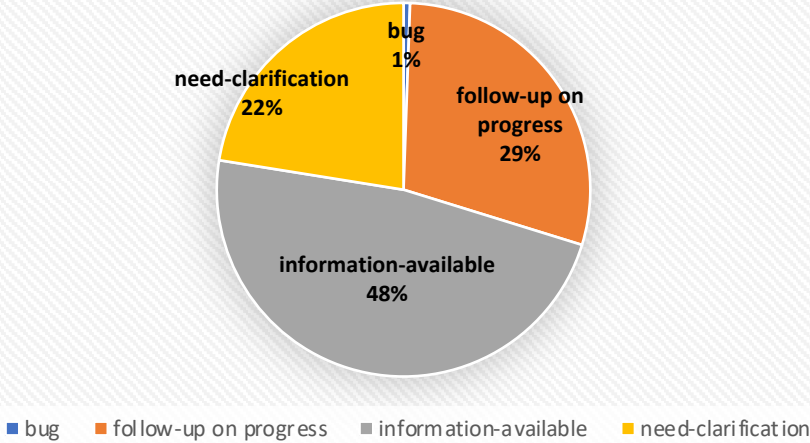
# ABSCH Analysis

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| ALBANIA                  | 4 |
| ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA      | 4 |
| ARGENTINA                | 3 |
| AUSTRIA                  | 2 |
| BELARUS                  | 1 |
| BELGIUM                  | 3 |
| BENIN                    | 4 |
| BHUTAN                   | 3 |
| BRAZIL                   | 1 |
| BURKINA FASO             | 1 |
| CAMBODIA                 | 4 |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | 1 |
| DENMARK                  | 2 |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC       | 3 |
| ECUADOR                  | 4 |
| FRANCE                   | 1 |
| GUYANA                   | 3 |
| HONDURAS                 | 1 |
| INDIA                    | 3 |
| INDIA                    | 2 |
| INDONESIA                | 4 |
| JORDAN                   | 2 |
| KENYA                    | 3 |
| KUWAIT                   | 2 |
| MADAGASCAR               | 2 |

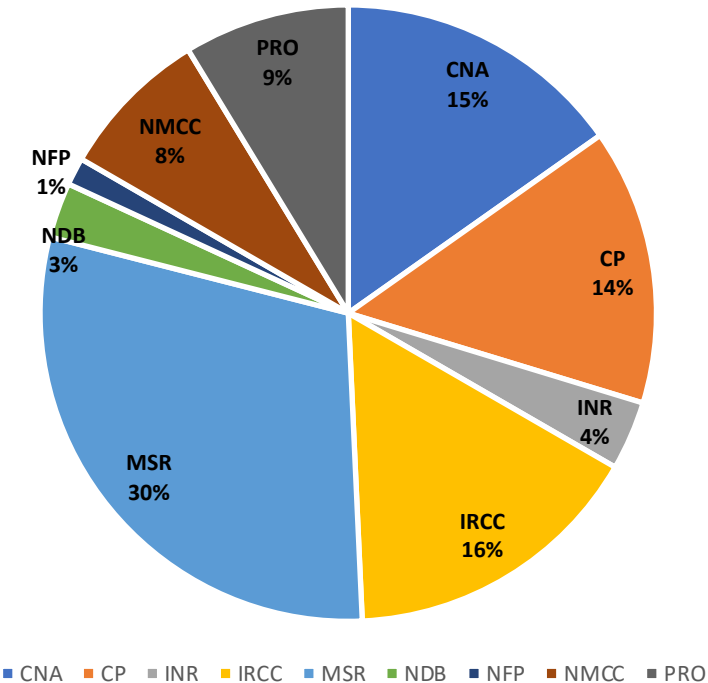
|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| MAURITANIA          | 1 |
| MOLDOVA             | 1 |
| MONGOLIA            | 2 |
| NAMIBIA             | 7 |
| NEPAL               | 1 |
| NETHERLANDS         | 1 |
| PERU                | 7 |
| RWANDA              | 4 |
| SAINT KITTS & NEVIS | 1 |
| SAMOA               | 5 |
| SENEGAL             | 4 |
| SERBIA              | 1 |
| SEYCHELLES          | 5 |
| SIERRA LEONE        | 4 |
| SOUTH AFRICA        | 4 |
| TAJIKISTAN          | 6 |
| TAJKISITAN          | 1 |
| URUGUAY             | 1 |
| VANUATU             | 1 |
| VENEZUELA           | 2 |

Total issues: 124

Issue types



Issues by record type



**Are Parties required by the  
Protocol to have a national ABS  
Clearing-House?**

# Not a requirement of the Protocol, maybe useful depending on what want to do.

- ABSCH is designed to interoperable with other databases and systems, in particular Parties' databases, as well as databases of other instruments and organizations.
- The API is meant to allow the seamless integration of the data and functions of the ABSCH into other systems in ways that best fit their own needs, workflows and technologies.
- Use of the API to avoid duplication in the submission of information to the ABSCH and, at the same time, create national or regional information systems that are fully compatible with the ABSCH.

**Cambodia** – The Cambodian ABS Clearing-house is under construction and; We have encountered many challenges: Limited experience in using of Clearing-house; There is no proper channel to disseminate ABS information as Clearing-house is main mechanism for ABS information sharing; Difficult to develop ABS Interface and technical conceptual design....

**Venezuela** - As a challenge, we hope to set up the ABS Information Exchange Center because of its importance to monitor the use of the country's genetic resources, in addition to establishing an adequate exchange of information as the main actor in the implementation of the Protocol

**Uruguay** - Another concern was to systematize and adapt the information in accordance with our legislation while developing a national platform. However, at this step we consider that we still need to make some adjustments to our forms to make them more compatible with ABSCH platform.

**Rwanda** - Challenges: ABS-CHM is still in process

**Nepal** - The ministry is on process to develop national Traditional Knowledge Database; this will be further linked to ABS Clearing-House.

**Cameroun** - Conception of 10 national websites of clearing houses ([portailchm.sie.cm](http://portailchm.sie.cm)) (Sept. 2017);

## Seychelles:

- Is there a possibility to have an on online permitting system linked directly to the CHM?
- Can the CHM be used to track the use of GR? (e.g. link to the Patent database)
- Can the CHM be used as a one stop-shop ?

# Interoperability

- ABSCH is designed to be interoperable with other databases and systems, in particular Parties' databases, as well as databases of other instruments and organizations.
- The API is meant to allow the seamless integration of the data and functions of the ABSCH into other systems in ways that best fit their own needs, workflows and technologies.
- Use of the API to avoid duplication in the submission of information to the ABSCH and, at the same time, create national or regional information systems that are fully compatible with the ABSCH.



ABSCH is designed to be interoperable with other databases and systems, in particular Parties' databases, as well as databases of other instruments and organizations.

The API is meant to allow the seamless integration of the data and functions of the ABSCH into other systems in ways that best fit their own needs, workflows and technologies.

Use of the API to avoid duplication in the submission of information to the ABSCH and, at the same time, create national or regional information systems that are fully compatible with the ABSCH.

Exchange information  
between systems  
(eg. Alerts for new  
CPC or IRCC)

National  
Systems that  
support Permitting

National Systems  
that support  
Monitoring and  
Compliance

What can do you if you  
need help to use the  
ABSCH?



# ABSCH Help Desk

## Question received:

**60%** related more to understanding national implementation of the Protocol at national level

**40%** of questions related to technical support

Convention on Biological Diversity

**ABSCH** THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

[Home](#) | [About the ABSCH](#) | [Search](#) | [Submit](#) | [Country Profiles](#) | [National Reports](#)

CBD > ABSCH > About the ABSCH

**GETTING STARTED USING THE ABSCH**

- Parties and other Governments
- Other stakeholders

**ABOUT THE ABSCH**

- Introduction to the ABSCH
- Finding Information
- Submitting Information
- Monitoring Utilization
- Interoperability
- Capacity-building
- Need help? Contact us

**USEFUL LINKS**

- [Frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Interim national report FAQs](#)
- [Step-by-step guides](#)
- [Common formats](#)
- [ABSCH training website](#)
- [Nagoya Protocol Portal](#)
- [Text of the Nagoya Protocol](#)

## Introduction to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH)

### Introduction

The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House, ABSCH) is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing established by [Article 14](#) of the Nagoya Protocol, as part of clearing-house mechanism under [Article 18, paragraph 3](#) of the Convention. The ABSCH is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by enhancing legal certainty, clarity, and transparency on procedures for access and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC). By making relevant information regarding ABS available, the ABSCH offers opportunities for connecting providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

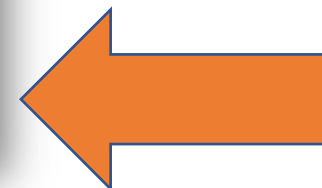
### Background

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) was negotiated in order to provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge by:

- Establishing more predictable conditions for access to those resources; and
- Helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leave the contracting Party providing the genetic resources.

Researchers and businesses need legal clarity, certainty and transparency when accessing genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge. Without such legal certainty, potential users of genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge could be

- EMAIL
- CALL
- LIVE CHAT
- E-LEARNING
- WEBINARS



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **Cote d'Ivoire:**

Succeeding to publish texts make us very happy because we comply with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol

## **KENYA:**

- Many ABS permits have been uploaded on ABSCH
- Kenya at least has a legal framework on ABS

## **KUWAIT:**

- The identification of local organizations that keep and manage genetic resources and data.
- The proposal to add an addendum to the environmental legislation pertaining to ABS.

## **CAMEROON:**

Conception of 10 national websites of clearing houses ([portailchm.sie.cm](http://portailchm.sie.cm)) (Sept. 2017);  
Facilitator on training workshop of 10 regional chiefs of service of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development on ABSCH platform and national website of ABSCH ([www.portailchm.sie.cm/abs/](http://www.portailchm.sie.cm/abs/)) under GIZ-COMIFAC funding (Nov 2017);

Facilitator of Training workshop of 58 chiefs of service of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development on clearing house web portal ([portailchm.sie.cm](http://portailchm.sie.cm)) of Cameroon under GIZ-ProPFE funding (June to August 2018);  
Facilitator on elaboration of national strategy and actions plans of clearing houses under GIZ-ProPFE funding (2018)

## **Benin**

**Publication :** CN; ANC; Mesures législatives, administratives; stratégie nationale APA; rapport national intérimaire sur la mise en oeuvre du PN/APA

## **SOUTH AFRICA:**

- Successfully published 28 IRCCs
- Availability of the Country's ABS legislation and Regulations, ABS Guidelines and Posters on the ABS Clearing House
- Published the interim national report on implementation of Nagoya Protocol

## **RWANDA:**

Training of stakeholders conducted

## **Germany:**

ABS CH is easy to use  
Functioning SCBD helpdesk  
Possibility to automatically convert EU due diligence declarations into CPCs

## **INDIA**

- First to issue IRCC
- Published more than 620 IRCCs
- Published information on legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS
- Information on national ABS procedures published in all UN languages.

## **Bhutan:**

Webinar was convened with the support of ABSCH Secretariat, CBD in Bhutan. Officials of NFP, checkpoints and relevant stakeholders were introduced to the working modality of the ABSCH.

# Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (Certificate, IRCC)

# QUESTIONS

- How do we choose checkpoints?
- What is the functionality of checkpoints?
- How does confidentiality work on the ABSCH?
- What are the benefits of having permits on the ABSCH?
- How do you get designated CP to actively participate?
- How to use the Checkpoint Communique effectively? (South Africa)
  - How (and if) to publish notifications where everything is declared and classified as confidential by the user? (Switzerland)

# INDIA - PERMITS PUBLISHING CHAMPIONS

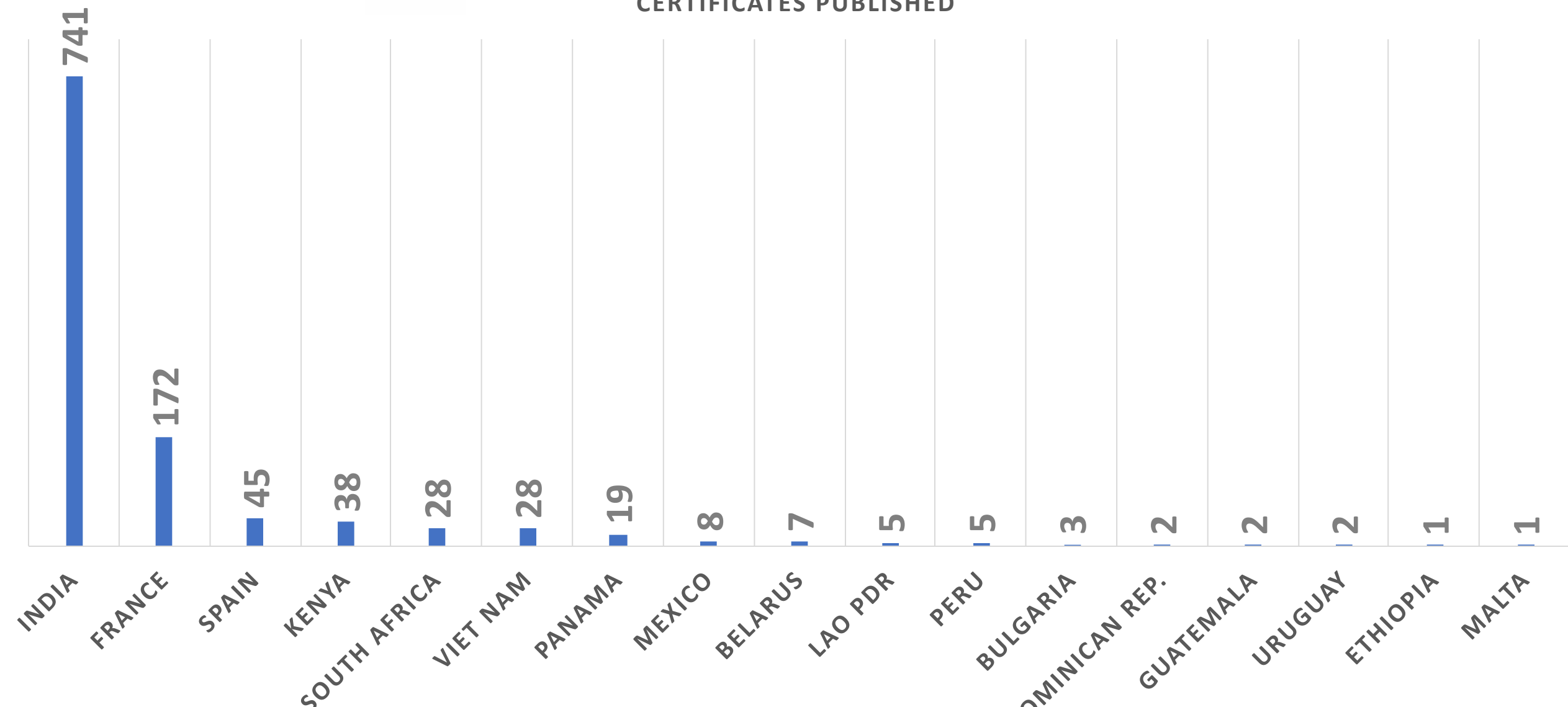


741 PERMITS PUBLISHED



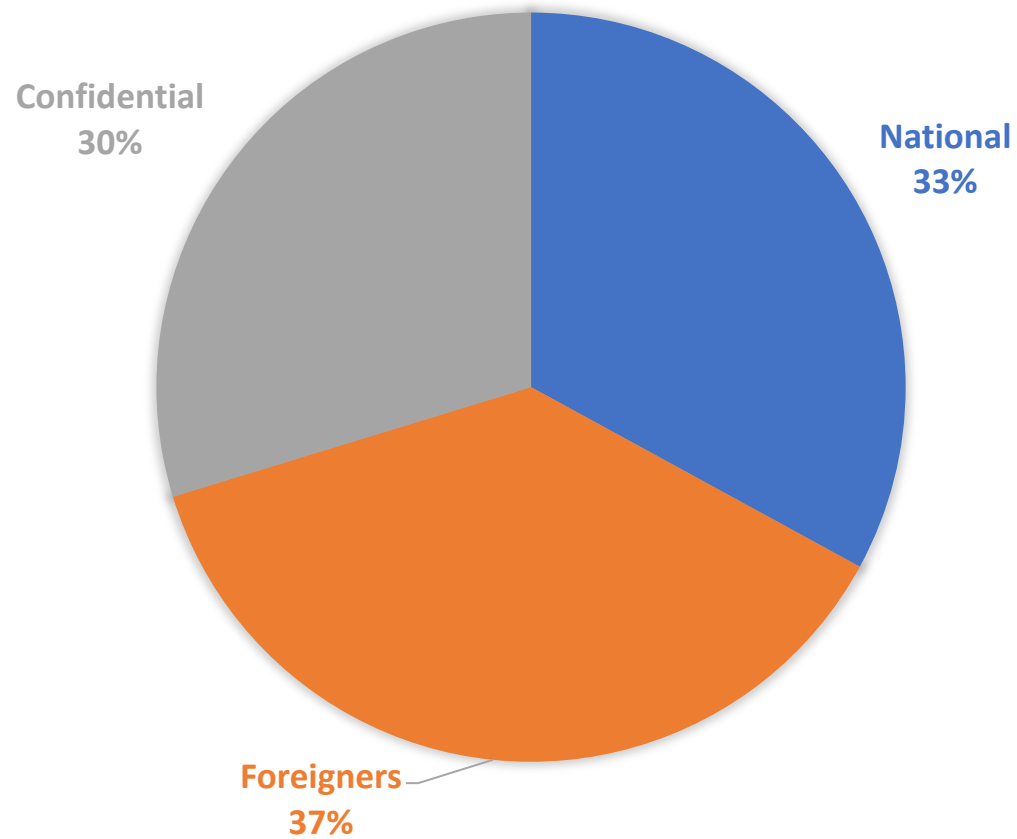
# 1107 certificates published by 17 Parties

CERTIFICATES PUBLISHED

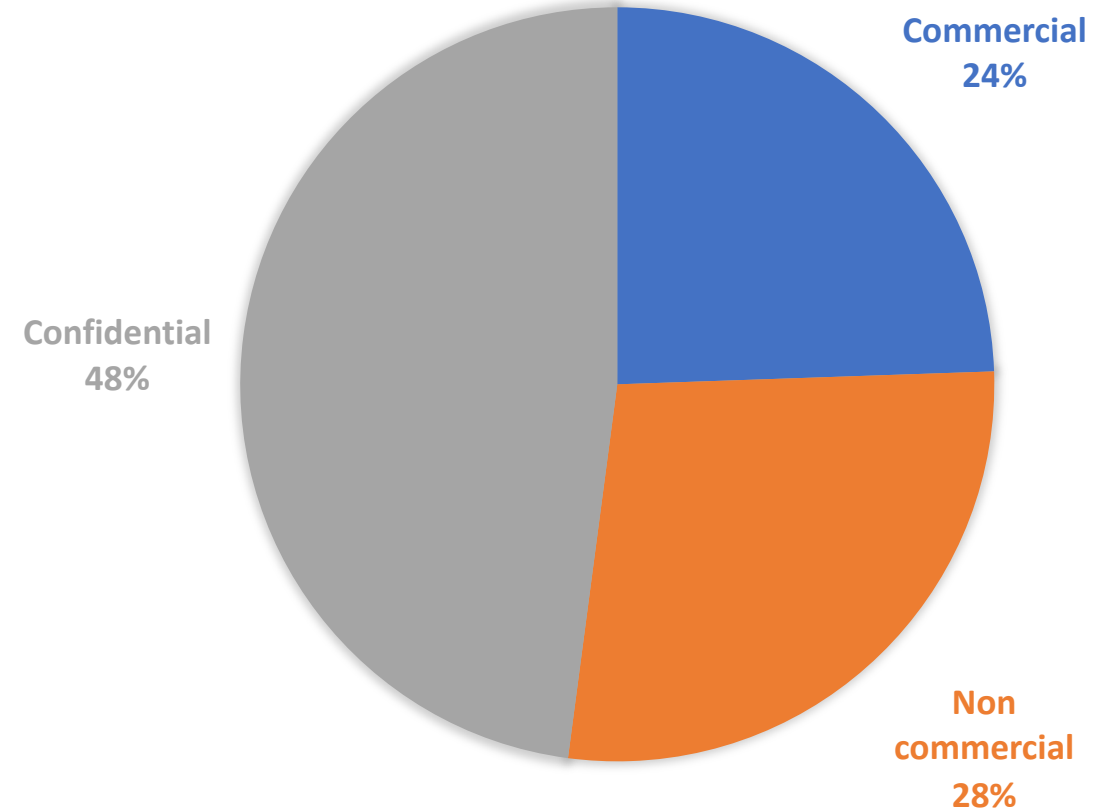


# 1107 certificates published by 17 Parties

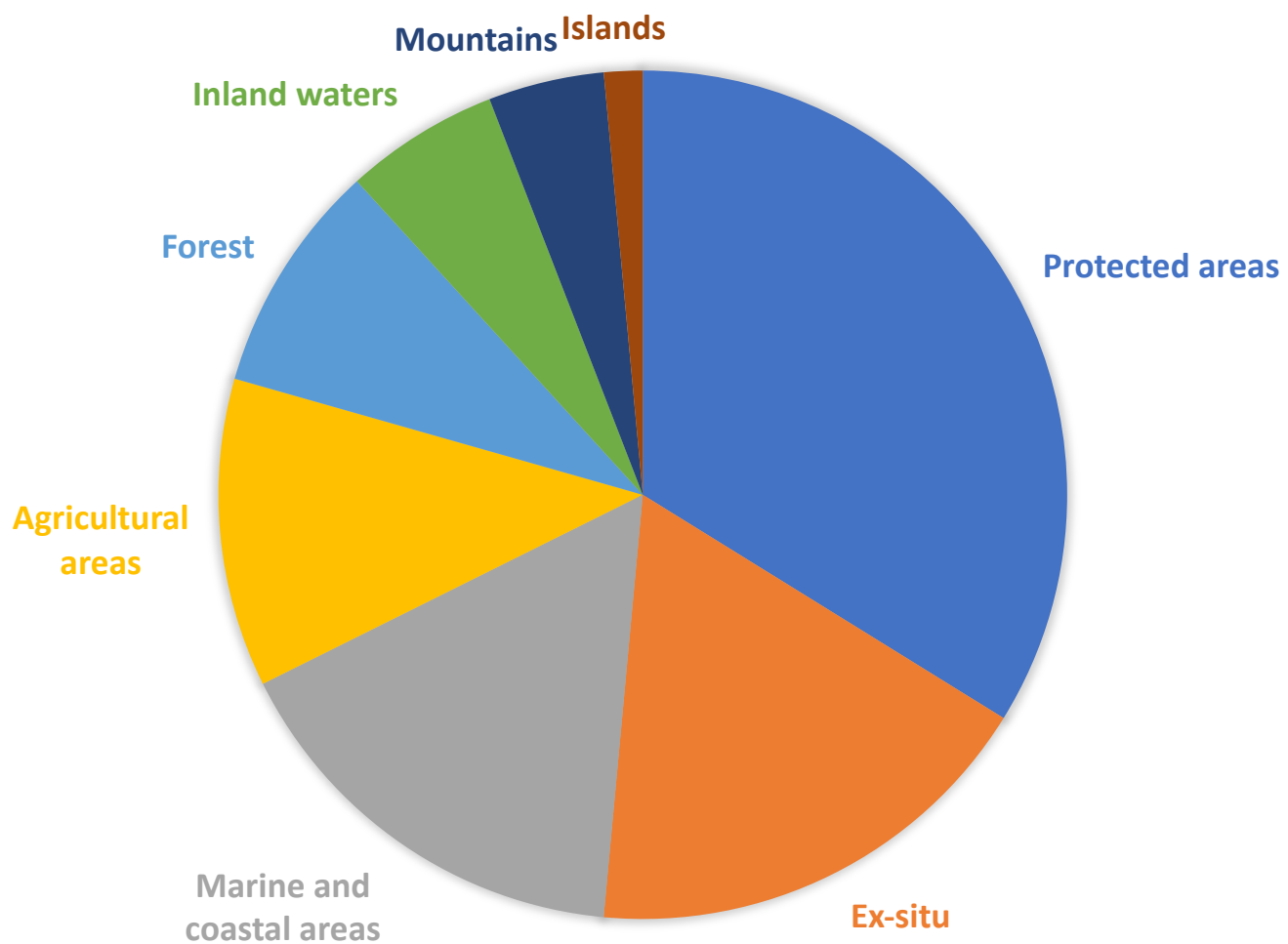
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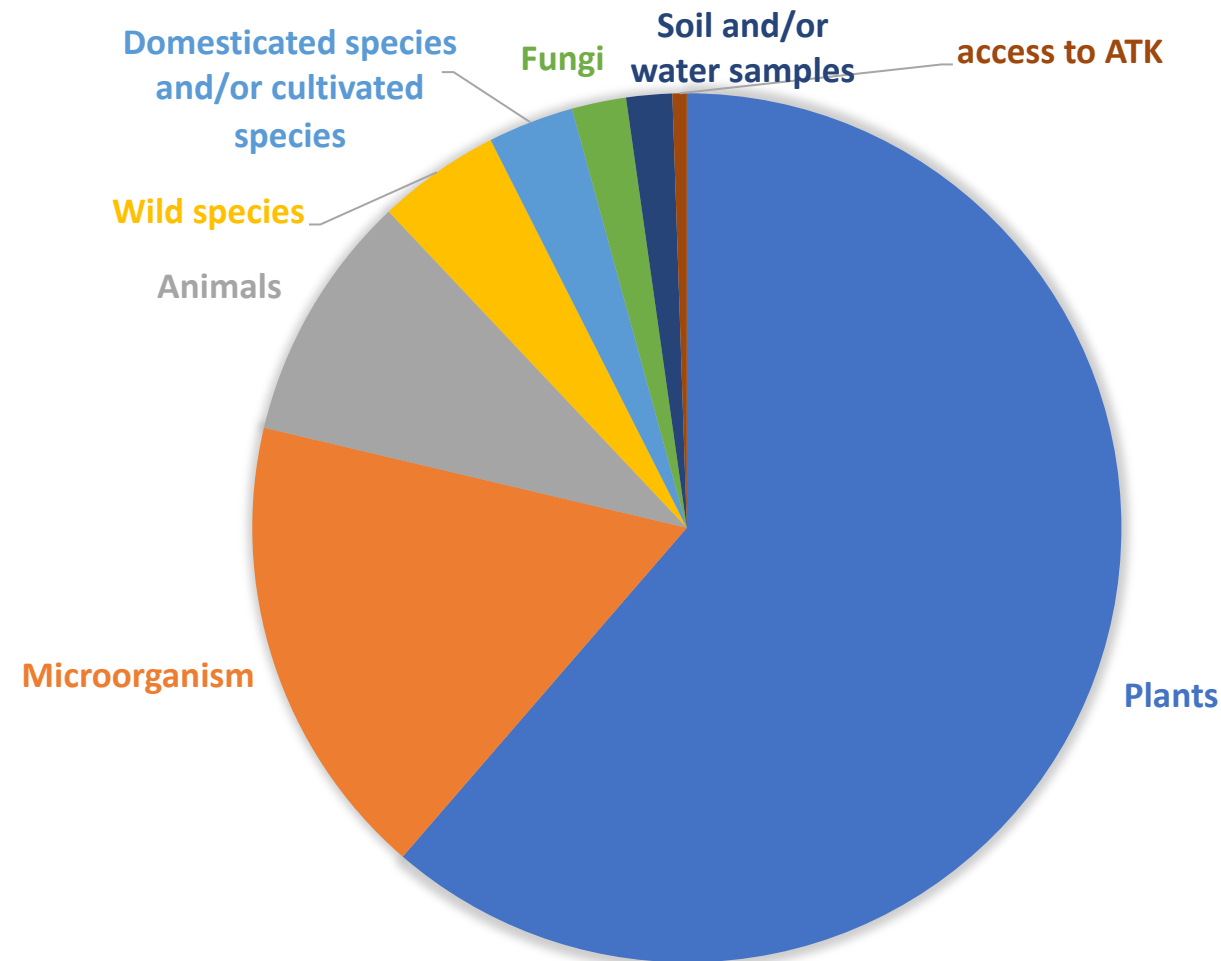
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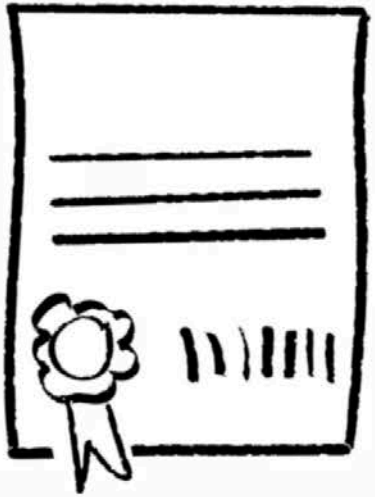
SUBJECT MATTER



What are the benefits of having  
permits on the ABSCH?

# Benefits of publishing permits

## CERTIFICATE



- Represent the national ABS permit at the international level:
- Standard format
- Provides user with proof of PIC and MAT and legal access of GR
- Facilitates monitoring
- Doesn't give away confidential information (provides link to permit)
- Comply with Party obligations

When information from the ABS permit is required to constitute a certificate on the ABSCH?



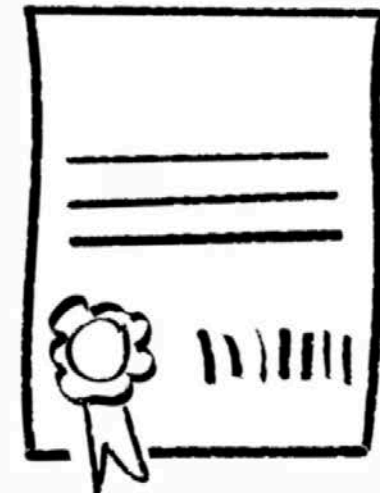
- issuing authority
- ID of permit
- the provider of the GR
- person granted PIC
- date of issuance / expiration
- confirmation of PIC+MAT
- subject (GR or ATK)
- Commercial or non-commercial
- conditions for transfer



PERMIT

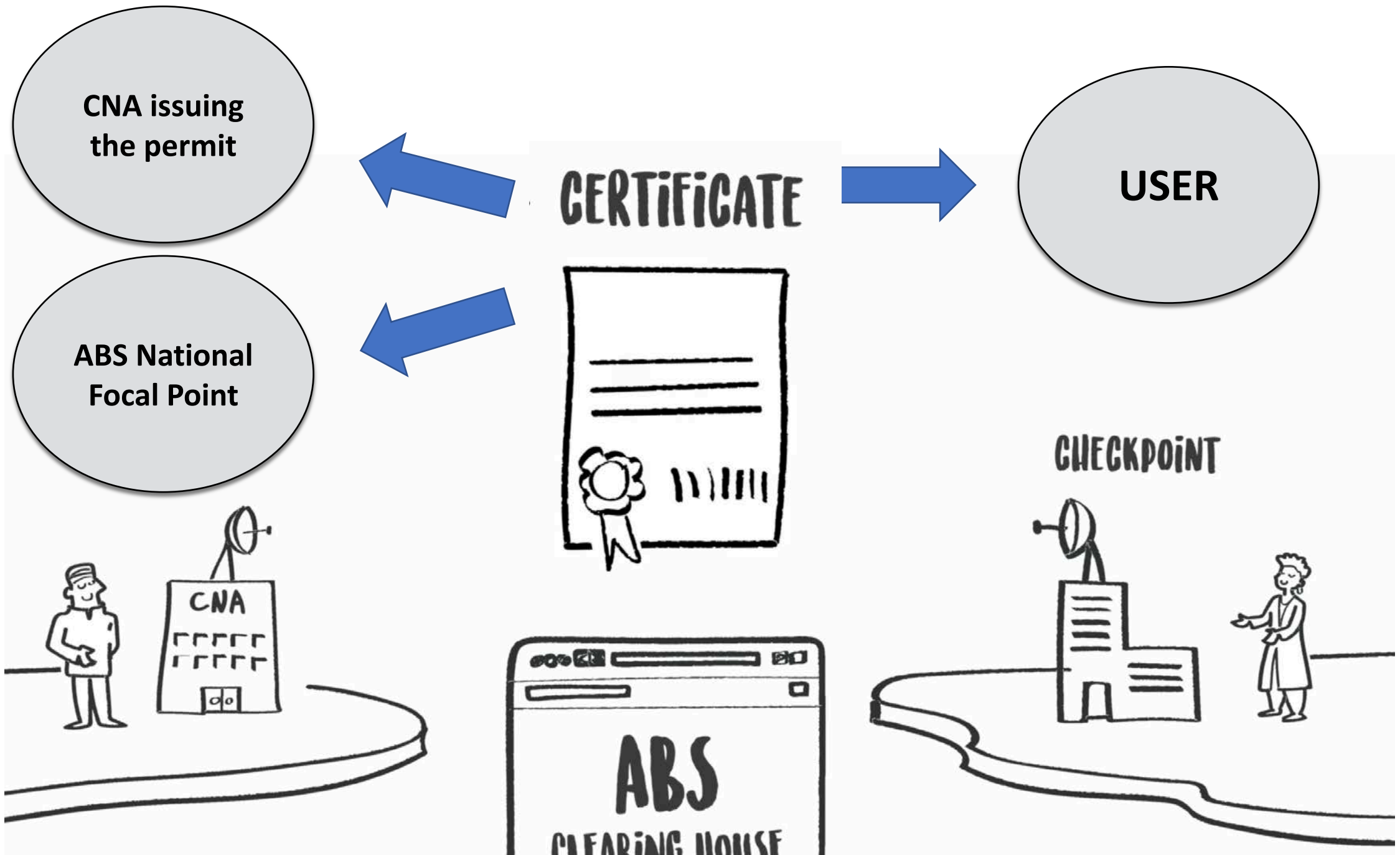


CERTIFICATE



Unique ID of certificate

**What happens after a certificate  
is published in the ABSCH?**



What type of information should  
not be shared on in any record  
ABS Clearing-House?



☐ This information is confidential

**Person or entity to whom prior informed consent (PIC) was granted \***

Please provide the name and contact details of the person or entity to whom prior informed consent was granted. If the information is marked as confidential that person will not be able to receive the courtesy copy of the IRCC or the CPC.

[+ Add record\(s\)](#)

*No records have been linked.*

# National ABS Permit #12345678

ABSCH-IRCC-CA-123456

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Confidential  
information

Confidential  
information

# ABSCH-IRCC-CA-123456

National ABS Permit #12345678

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# Checkpoints (CP) and the Checkpoint communiqué (communiqué, CPC)

What obligation is covered in  
Article 17, paragraph 1?

# Checkpoint checklist

**Obligation for Parties:** ✓ Parties have an obligation to designate of one or more checkpoints relevant to the utilization of genetic resources

**Function:** ✓ Checkpoints collect or receive information on PIC, MAT, source, and utilization.

**Where they are placed:** ✓ The information is collected at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre commercialization or commercialization.

**Obligation for Users:** ✓ Users are required to provide information to checkpoints

**Purpose:** ✓ The information gathered is provided to the provider country and ABSCH (checkpoint communique)

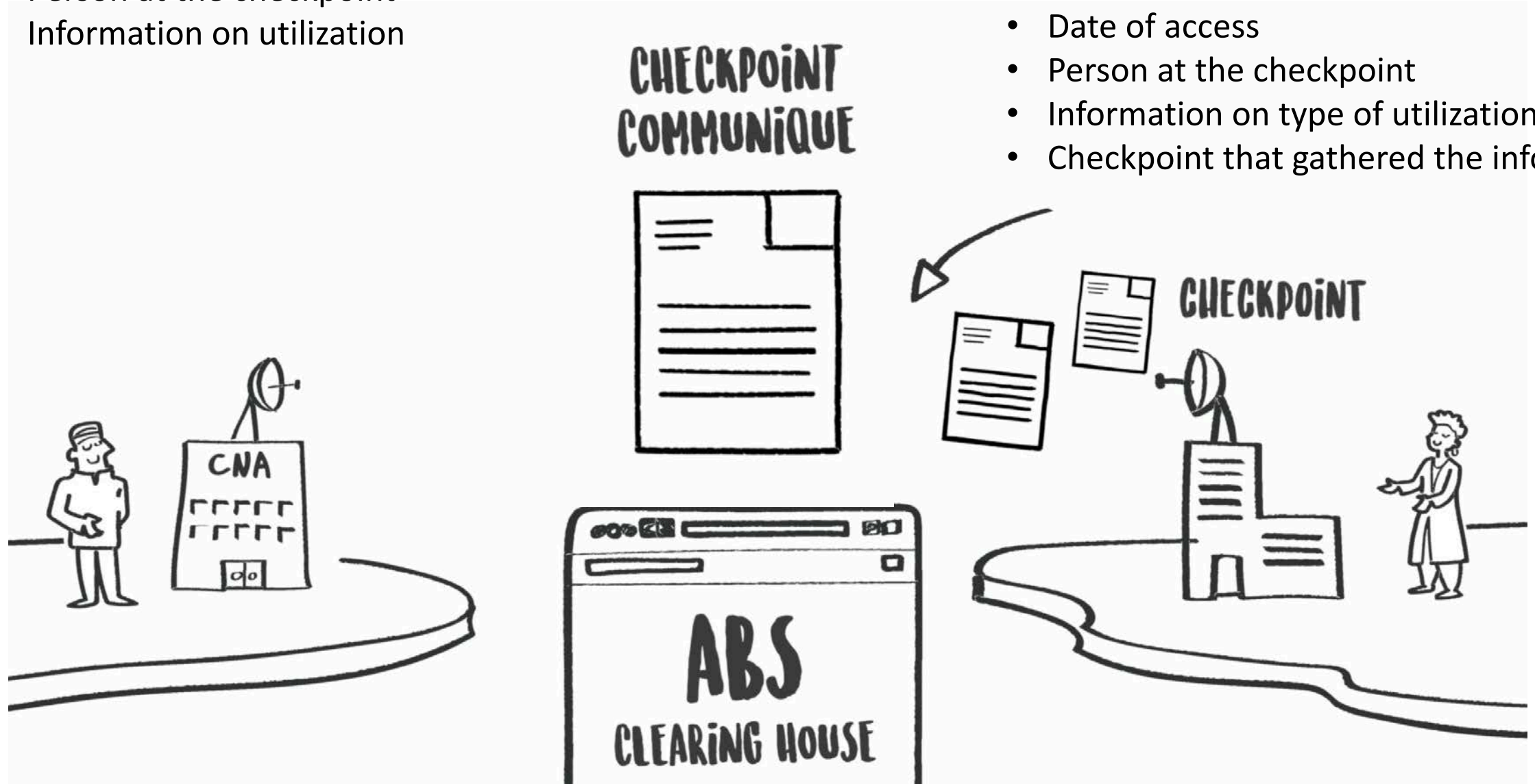
What information is required for  
the checkpoint communiqué?

## IF THE CERTIFICATE IS AVAILABLE

- Certificate unique ID
- Checkpoint gathering the information
- Person at the checkpoint
- Information on utilization

## IF THE CERTIFICATE IS NOT AVAILABLE

- Source
- Subject matter
- Proof of PIC and MAT
- Date of access
- Person at the checkpoint
- Information on type of utilization
- Checkpoint that gathered the info

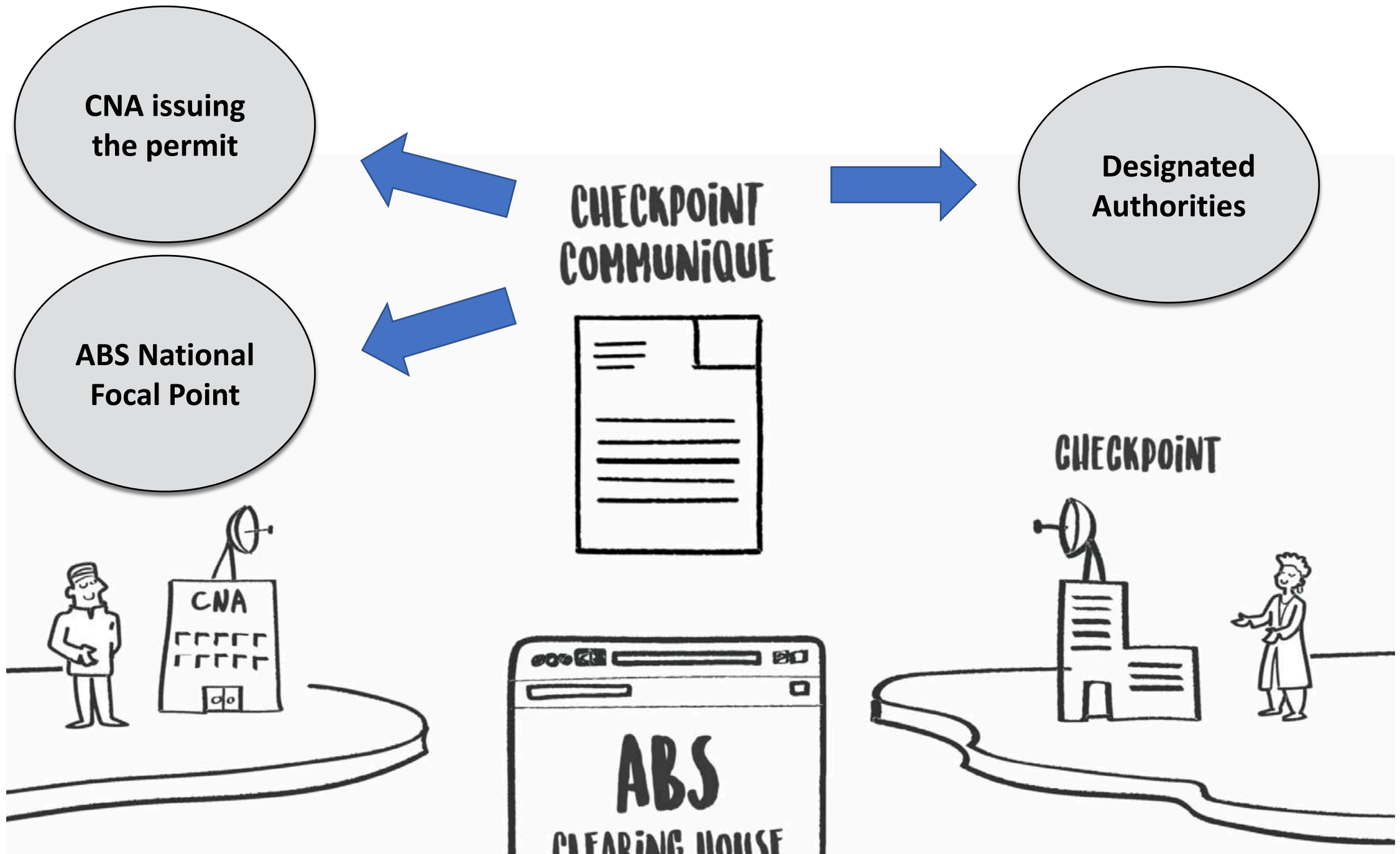


Which countries must designate  
effective Checkpoints?

**The Protocol does not distinguish between providers and users countries.**

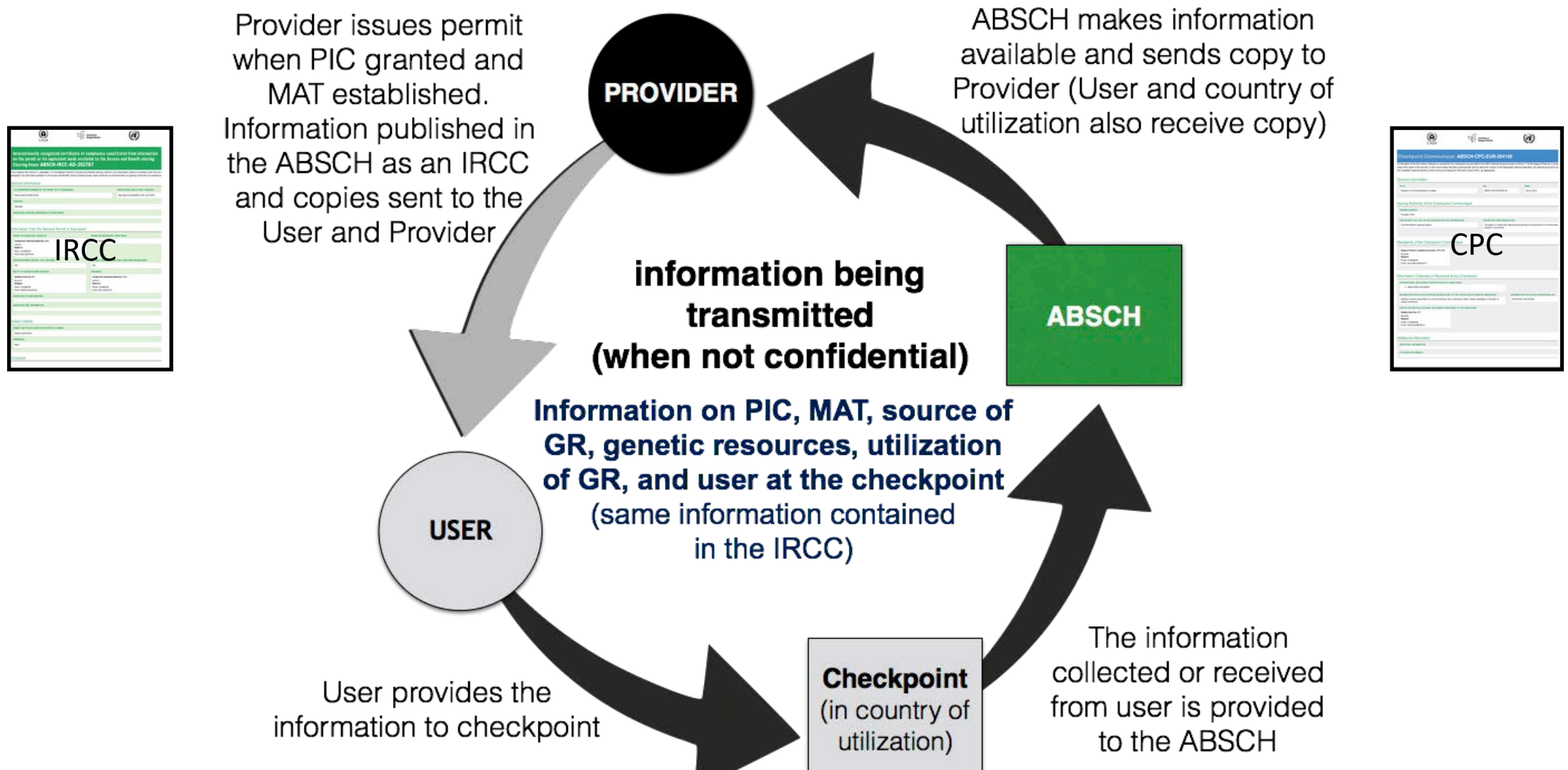
Protocol applies to all Parties, including provisions related to compliance with domestic legislation or regulatory requirements according to Articles 15 and 16

What does the ABSCH do with the checkpoint communique after it is published?

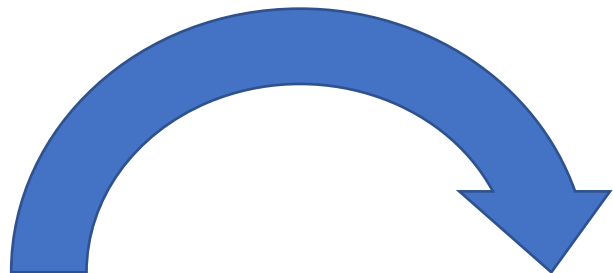


What is ultimate goal of the  
checkpoint communique?

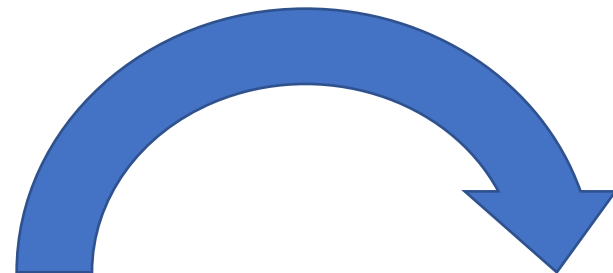
# To provide information related to utilization by the user of their genetic resources back to the provider



PUBLIC  
ABSCH



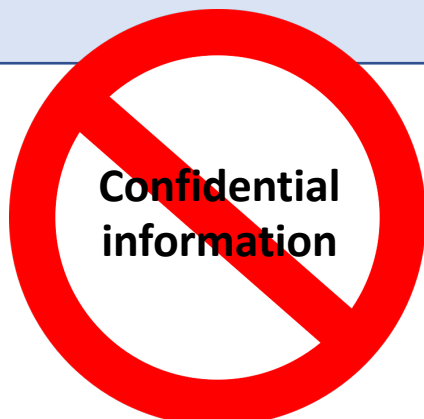
PUBLIC  
ABSCH



PROVIDER  
COUNTRY'S  
PRIVATE DATABASE

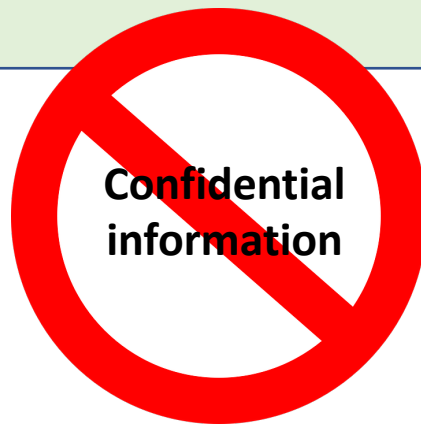
## CHECKPOINT COMMUNIQUE ABSCH-CPC-CA-123456

- **ABSCH-IRCC-CA-123456**
- Checkpoint gathering the information
- Person at the checkpoint
- Information on utilization



## ABSCH-IRCC-CA-123456 National ABS Permit #12345678

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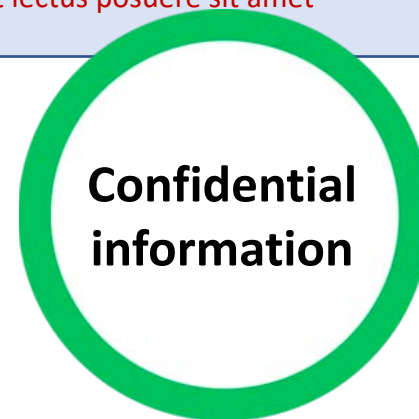


## National ABS Permit #12345678

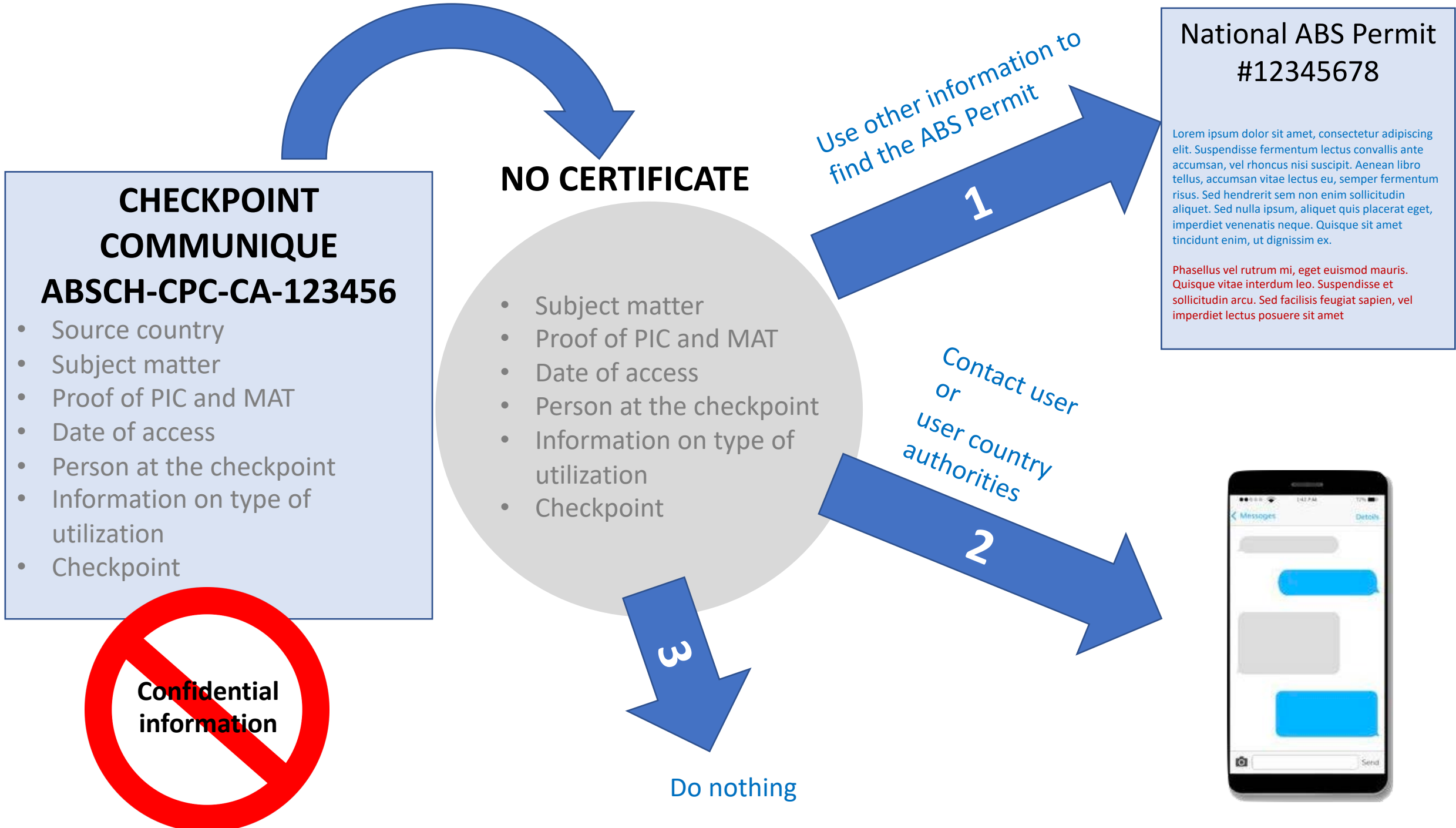
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What if you receive a  
communique that is not linked to  
a certificate?





"I've never scored a goal in my  
life without getting a pass from  
someone else."

~ Abby Wambach